
Emma Goldman

(An Editorial)

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Editor of *Workers Challenge* was Harry Wicks.

No doubt many people who saw the announcement that the *New York World* was to begin the publication of a series of ten articles by Emma Goldman against Soviet Russia were surprised and shocked at her conduct. There was not a Marxist in the country who did not expect that very thing from this hysterical female. When Emma was arrested by the US government in 1917 and charged with the crime of interfering with the draft, many Marxists said that the government was using very poor judgment in imprisoning one of its best friends. While Emma and the anarchists preach individual insurrection against all government, and while their harangues sounded very ferocious to the ignorant detectives who watch so-called “red” activities, the thoroughgoing revolutionist recognizes the immense benefit to the capitalist class of such doctrines.

The doctrine of individualism is the most dangerous doctrine that can be taught to the workers. When Emma was deported to Russia she anticipated finding a fruitful field where she could propagate anarchism undisturbed. She was soon disillusioned. Instead of possessing freedom to propagate individualism in a country struggling against enemies, from without and within, she discovered that everywhere the workers were moving as a mass and that the individual desires of people were subordinated to the interest of the population of Russia. As the government desires to give everyone an opportunity to do some useful work and not wanting to stint Emma, she was finally placed in a position as keeper of a museum of antiquities. When one of the American delegates to the 3rd Congress of the Com-

munist International [June 22-July 12, 1921] asked a prominent Russian communist about Emma, he replied, "Yes, she is in charge of a Museum of Antiquities and she is the principal antique."

She was tolerated with considerable kindness, as the Bolshevik government never turns down anyone who comes to them as an exile from other governments, no matter what their political beliefs may be. But, as Emma had been a popular favorite among certain strata of petty bourgeois females and half-baked radicals in the United States, the position assigned her by the Soviets palled upon her and she yearned to again resume her place in the light of publicity.

She left Russia and took up a residence in Sweden where she immediately entered into negotiations with the pen prostitutes of the capitalist press who hover like clouds of buzzards about the capitals of countries adjacent Russia, waiting for opportunities to obtain material for a new lie about the Soviets. The result is known to everyone who read the pages of advertising in the *New York World*. Instead of the undesirable, who had to be deported by the United States government, she suddenly becomes one of the most famous women on earth, who went to Russia with high ideals about the Soviet government and left disillusioned by the autocratic conduct of Lenin and Trotsky.

Her articles have not yet appeared, but everyone who understands the psychology of anarchism can anticipate that they will be one long wail about the horrible tyranny of the Bolsheviks for imprisoning anarchists who taught the workers that the state should be abolished out of hand and that there should be no dictatorship of the proletariat, despite the fact that civil war was raging against the Soviets. The anarchists of Russia were playing directly into the hands of the mortal enemies of the Revolution, the world imperialists, who were awaiting an opportunity to re-establish the tyranny of the Tsar upon the ruins of the Workers' and Peasants' government.

Now that the capitalist class of the United States understands more about Emma and her work, there is only one logical thing for them to do in order to atone for the wrongs commit-

ted against her. That is to send a special mission of distinguished and representative Americans to accompany her back to the United States, with all the honors due to a loyal friend who has been unjustly wronged.

We suggest that the mission consist of ex-Attorney General A. Mitchell Palmer, Woodrow Wilson (or Joseph P. Tumulty as a substitute, in case Woody is still indisposed), and Secretary of State Charles E. Hughes. The good ship *George Washington*, which was used as the Presidential ship by Woodrow in his various journeys to the Peace Conference at Versailles, should be placed at the disposal of the committee. When Emma arrives in New York there should be appropriate entertainment. Her landing should receive the proper publicity from the *New York World*, President Harding should deliver an address of Welcome and present her with the Statue of Liberty. Mitchell Palmer should present her with an autographed photo of himself taken one minute after the May Day “bomb” explosion in front of his house and Tumulty should present her with a marble pillar containing Woodrow Wilson’s Fourteen Points, while Charles E. Hughes strokes his Baptist lilacs and thanks God that this is America after all.

Edited by Tim Davenport

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